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Aug. 27, 2010
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EDITORIAL: As the wind blows

Wind power really blows.

Consider two stories from this week.

First, Air Force and Pentagon officials held a three-day forum in Las Vegas to dial back the rush to develop renewable resources all over Southern Nevada -- and especially within and around the 12,000 square miles of airspace controlled by Nellis Air Force Base.

Windmills, in particular, are so disruptive to radar signals that they could render the country's biggest and best air defense training range useless.

"We need to be able to use the range as an outdoor laboratory," said Col. Steven Garland, commander of the 99th Air Base Wing at Nellis. "We've got 68 years of investing in this pristine outdoor laboratory. You can't replace it anywhere else in the United States."

Of course, the whole reason so many wind farms have been proposed all over the United States is the promise that they'll reduce carbon emissions and help states reach arbitrary, mandated renewable benchmarks to stave off a hoaxed global warming catastrophe.

But it turns out, the Defense Department is doing taxpayers and ratepayers a favor by vetoing a number of wind farms. As Robert Bryce wrote this week in The Wall Street Journal, "a slew of recent studies show that wind-generated electricity likely won't result in any reduction in carbon emissions -- or that they'll be so small as to be almost meaningless."

Wind power, heavily subsidized by taxpayers and far more expensive than electricity generated by fossil fuels, is intermittent. No wind, no electricity. So utilities have to either keep conventional plants running all the time as backup, or constantly shut them down and fire them up, depending on whether the wind is blowing, to keep everyone's lights on.

Mr. Bryce reports that this "cycling" of conventional power plants is so inefficient that it negates whatever emissions reductions are realized by turning wind turbines.

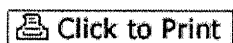
"Wind energy gives people a nice, warm, fuzzy feeling that we're taking action on climate change," Kevin Forbes, director of the Center for the Study of Energy and Environmental Stewardship, told Mr. Bryce. "The reality is that it's not doing much of anything."

This is Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's big pitch for reviving Nevada's economy, the reason voters should return him to Washington: the siren song of "green jobs."

No thanks.

Find this article at:

<http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/as-the-wind-blows-101631118.html>



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Climate Change Dispatch

Because the debate is NOT over

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—Albert Einstein

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As the wind blows

WRITTEN BY LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL | 27 AUGUST 2010

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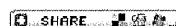
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Gary 2010-08-27 16:01

Soooo refreshing to read an honest appraisal of this silly waste of money and effort.

We have a Windmill on our building along with a Solar array. Together they cost \$70k or so. the breakeven projections range from a best of 30 years to a more realistic 300 years. Now given that neither device will last more than 30 years, (if that) these thing are just for Show and a total waste.

Their combined output on a good day is enough to run the lights in the main board room.

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amirlach 2010-08-27 16:28

Maybe the Air Force can make "Stealth" Windmills at a Billion a pop. Then they won't bugger up the Radar in the test range.

They should recoup the investment in a few million years.

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Ralph 2010-08-27 21:37

PFI - Offshore deals tests banks as wind drops

LONDON (Project Finance International) - Two projects in the embryonic but fast growing offshore wind sector are currently seeking debt finance. The sponsors, large European utilities, want to transfer construction risk on the deals to the banks to keep the

financings off their balance sheets. A further test for the financiers is the fact UK wind speeds have been at 180 year record lows this year - raising concerns about the reliability of wind as an energy source.

It's not windy

The deals are being launched as it has become clear 2010 has been a bad year for UK wind speeds, perhaps the worse since 1821. Wind speeds clearly have a direct impact on energy MW yields from wind.

A recent report from wind consultancy Garrad Hassan said UK wind yields have dropped this year to perhaps a 1 in 15 year event due to stable high pressure. Energy levels from wind dropped 27.8% in the first quarter compared with the average and 18.3% in the second quarter - compared with a 5% drop in the last quarter of 2009 and a 15.7% increase in the third quarter of 2009. The North Atlantic Oscillation index has been measured since 1821 and this correlates with the Garrad Hassan wind index which itself been in existence for 15 years. The NAO index numbers for the 4 months from December 2009 to March 2010 were the most negative since 1821.

www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE67Q0Z320100827

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John 2010-08-28 04:37

You've got to love nature...

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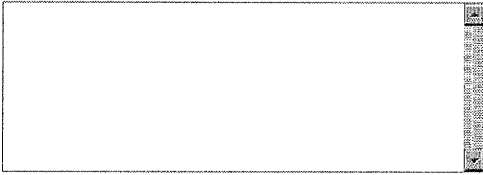
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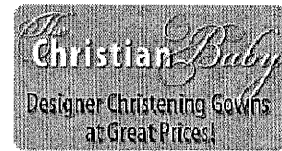
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-APPLICATION-

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Certification _____

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Date: September 22, 2010

Applicant's Tracking Number: 0002098

Registration #:

Service Request #: 1-491084222

Application Date: 09-22-2010 21:30:04

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